

and Drew Carter had the aspiration of becoming one. He had dreamed of being nothing but a Texas Ranger since he was a small child. He was proud to wear that gleaming silver badge, white Stetson hat, and cowboy boots. Little did Ranger Carter know that he would make history.

As law enforcement combed Texas for Ramirez in 1999, Ranger Carter conceived an idea for Ramirez's apprehension. He knew that Ramirez was close to his sister and thought maybe she would be willing to convince him to surrender. Carter's instinct proved to be correct: Ramirez's sister was more than willing to convince Ramirez to surrender. She was worried he would be killed by law enforcement, or worse, that he would kill again. Over several weeks, Carter worked out a deal with Ramirez's sister. If Ramirez would surrender, Carter would make sure that he was protected in jail, could be visited by family and friends, and would receive a psychological evaluation.

Ranger Carter's terms were agreed to by Ramirez's sister, as well as by the district attorney of Harris County, TX, one location where Ramirez was wanted. The agreement was struck that Ramirez would peacefully surrender to Ranger Carter, and only Ranger Carter, on the middle of the bridge connecting Mexico and Texas. So on July 13, 1999, the demonic killer who had brutally terrorized the good citizens of Texas for nearly 2 years quietly shook the hand of Ranger Drew Carter and surrendered.

On June 27, 2006 Angel Resendez Ramirez was put to death for his crimes, effectively ending his reign of terror forever. Had Ranger Carter not acted with the intelligence and diplomacy of a Texas Ranger, this justice may have never been carried out. He is a humble man, stating that he did not apprehend Ramirez on his own. Mr. Speaker, Ranger Carter was aided by other Texas lawmen and federal agents; but it was because of his particular heroism and determination, a dangerous killer faced the justice he deserved. Today, I am honored to pay him this tribute.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MERCY FLIGHT OF WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mercy Flight of Western New York and their commitment in providing life-saving services to the community on this, their 25th anniversary. On September 27, 1981 Mercy Flight flew its first mission and since then has transported more than 13,000 patients for emergency care.

Mercy Flight was the pioneer of air-medical service in New York State and one of the first operations of its kind in the United States. Its nine guiding principles include: patient focus, integrity and honesty, neutrality, clinical excellence, safety, readiness, respect, community partnership, and fiduciary obligation. By relying on these principles Mercy Flight has proven their dedication to their life-saving mission.

Mercy Flight is independent of any hospital and instead puts their patients first and chooses

the hospital that will best suit their medical needs, honoring a simple goal: to save lives. Mercy Flight has provided an exemplary service to Western New York during emergencies when every second matters. They provide fast, safe, and cost-effective air-medical emergency services to over 600 people every year.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to pay tribute to Mercy Flight, an organization that has devoted 25 years of service to the community and one that will be deeply valued by Western New York for decades to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF FLOYD WEAVER

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest sincerity and respect that I rise today to honor Floyd Weaver, longtime community activist and icon in Stockton, California. He has recently been honored by the Stockton Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Weaver has taught in the Stockton Unified School District for 39 years, with over 20 years of experience in city government. It truly is an honor to join the NAACP in recognizing his notable contributions and dedication to our community.

Floyd Weaver is an innovative thinker, a highly respected leader and an individual with an unwavering commitment to the Stockton community. Throughout his career, Mr. Weaver has distinguished himself as a pioneer in the education realm, starting out as one of few African American males to teach in the Stockton Unified School District and later becoming the first African American Male Principal in the school district. After 39 years with the Stockton Unified School District, Mr. Weaver moved into the realm of city politics. While serving on the Stockton City Council, he founded and chaired the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recognition ad hoc Committee and later developed a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Trust for charitable events. The then City Councilmember became a two term Vice Mayor, another first for African Americans in our community. During his tenure as Vice Mayor, Mr. Weaver witnessed the realization of one of his proudest achievements, the Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza in the heart of downtown Stockton.

Floyd Weaver's service has reached beyond the City to Stockton to the county and state levels. In 1997 Mr. Weaver began serving on the Board of Directors for San Joaquin Regional Transit District, including two terms as Chair and three terms as Vice Chair. In October 2003, he was appointed to the California State Reclamation Board by Governor Gray Davis. More recently, he has been recognized for his efforts in renaming part of Charter Way in Stockton to honor civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. In addition, Mr. Weaver serves on several local advisory boards and committees and continues to be recognized with numerous awards for his ongoing involvement and unmatched devotion to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives

for Mr. Floyd Weaver is clearly deserved and well overdue. He is an esteemed member of our community, a lifelong activist for all people young and old, and an outstanding human being who will leave behind a legacy to be admired for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his remarkable career and untiring dedication to a vision for a better tomorrow for the people of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 10, 2006, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 358 and 359. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2563 and H.R. 5061.

DEEP OCEAN ENERGY RESOURCES ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4761) to provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act. I believe the measure deceptively undermines States' rights to protect their coastlines, compromises fragile coastal environments, and ultimately would cost taxpayers billions in lost revenue, adding to the already record-setting national deficit.

H.R. 4761 presents the illusion of granting States more control over drilling, when in actuality it makes it more cumbersome for States choosing to continue protecting their coastlines. States desiring to opt-out of drilling would be required to pass legislation every 5 years, subject to approval by their governor, and present it to the Federal Government. If State legislatures and their governors are unable to come to agreement on drilling policy within one year of this bill's enactment, they would lose their right to decide as the Federal Government would then have authority to begin granting leases within 50 to 100 miles off their coastlines.

This bill attempts to bait States, already suffering fiscal restraints due to the Majority's consistent practice of cutting States funding for vital services like Medicaid/Medicare and public education, with a greater share of revenue if they are willing to sacrifice their coastal protections. It would take the second largest funding source of the Federal Government, after income taxes, and redistribute those funds only to the coastal States that will allow drilling. This comes as a sacrifice to all other States as the Interior Department has estimated the alteration of current Federal-State revenue sharing provisions on royalty payments will result in a loss of approximately